

Summary of the Minutes

June 17, 2013 Meeting

City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission

PHCD Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall

Present: Julian Shepherd, Dick Andrus, Paul Palmer, Bill Barber, Artem Treyger, Josh DeMarre, Bev Rainforth, Teresa Baleno, Melissa Enoch, Lou Sebesta, Fiske Hanson, Alex Spencer (scribe)

Minutes for May 20th, 2013: Approved as is

Next Meeting: Mon. August 19th, 2013, 7:00 p.m. City Hall Planning Dept Conference Room

1. **NYSEG Update:** Most of Binghamton north of the river (Jarvis St. substation) is completed; 1-2 weeks left on the westside not counting “go-backs;” 1 week on south side. Fiske brought up the southside trimming of 2 years ago & Artem explained that NYSEG is trying to get on a 5-year cycle and keep up with it, which hadn’t previously been happening. Bev told us that all utilities had to file management plans with the Public Services Commission after Hurricane Sandy, and that we can find NYSEG’s plan there.
 - a. Policy/Code/Guidelines side discussion: We need to start thinking about developing a tree-planting policy, now that we are aware that NYSEG will be keeping up with trimming primary wires (& possibly some secondary wires). Should we not plant anything at all under primary wires? Paul ran into Chad from Davey and will ask him about recommendations for tree species in relation to the size of the utility strip. Lou offered to help train Nick Ballard, the city’s new tree pruner, on arborist skills, like how to determine a hazardous tree.
2. **Tree Inventory and Risk Survey Update:** Chad Clink, from Kent, OH, completed our tree inventory. The data hasn’t been processed yet but he or Andy will present at a future STC meeting (the contract runs through September). The data provides a better understanding of our weaknesses and strengths. Andy offered to help our citizen pruner program. We should look at Pittsburgh, which has an aggressive urban forestry initiative. We will issue a press release / blurb about the survey in a few weeks.
3. **Our listserv has a large audience.** We are happy for the interest and involvement of the community and pleased with the transparency of the commission. Perhaps a second listserv would be more fitting for our discussion of site plans, as we form our collective opinion. Melissa will set up a site plan-specific listserv. Community members will still be able to access site plans via the city’s website.
4. **Urban Forestry Efforts and Goals for 2013:**
 - a. Contact schools early in the school year to make advance plans for Arbor Day.
 - b. Reevaluate Citizen Pruner program management—create/adapt list of deliverables? Melissa will email out the scope and deliverables of the contract developed for CCE (which is technically not in effect yet). We should pay attention to procedures and try to find a method for Citizen Pruners to enter their own data.
 - c. Create a tree planting policy (after Davey report is released).
 - d. Review our literature and distribute to area garden centers (laminated?).
 - e. Fall trip to Ithaca—contact Nina Bassuk and try to learn from their efforts.
 - f. Independent studies: Dick’s students can gather data on things like tree cover.

5. **NYSEG has committed to planting some trees—what do we want?** STC suggests 1½" - 1¾" caliper and asks that NYSEG plant one plantable sized tree for every tree that has been removed as a result of pruning.